Northern Territory of Australia
Legislative Assembly

Minutes of Proceedings

Meeting Number 62
Wednesday 26 August 2026

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1. MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Assembly met at 10.00 am. The Speaker, the Honourable Robyn Lambley, took the Chair, read the prayer and delivered the acknowledgement of country on behalf of the Assembly.

2. MOTIONS: LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Pursuant to Standing Order 224, Mr Edgington moved that a leave of absence for today be granted to Mrs Finocchiaro to attend National Cabinet.

Question put and passed.

Pursuant to Standing Order 224, Mr Paech moved that a leave of absence for today be granted to Ms Uibo for personal reasons.

Question put and passed.

3. VISITORS

On behalf of all members, the Speaker welcomed participants from the Darwin Skills Development Scheme and their educators present in the gallery.

4. CONDOLENCE MOTION: MR JOHN HALIKOS

The Speaker informed the Assembly of the death of Mr John Halikos.

The Speaker advised members of the presence in the Speaker's Gallery of family and friends.

Mr Maley (Deputy Chief Minister), by leave, moved that this Assembly express its condolences at the passing of Mr John Halikos, and extend deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

Mr Maley, Mr Smelt, Ms Cahill, Ms Boothby, Mr Paech, Mr Howe, Mr Yan, Mr Charls, Mrs Zio, Mrs Lambley.

All members present having risen, in silence—motion agreed to.

Suspension of Meeting: The meeting of the Assembly was suspended between 11.06 am and 11.17 am.

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5. **NATIONAL ELECTRICITY (NORTHERN TERRITORY) (NATIONAL UNIFORM LEGISLATION) LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2026 (SERIAL 75)**

Mr Maley (Minister for Mining and Energy), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *National Electricity (Northern Territory) (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2015* and the National Electricity (Northern Territory) (National Uniform Legislation) (Modification) Regulations 2016, and tabled an Explanatory Statement (Paper 791).

Mr Maley moved that the Bill be now read a first time and delivered an explanatory speech.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Maley moved that the Bill be referred to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee for report by 7 October 2026.

Question put and passed.

6. **TRAFFIC LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (DRINK AND DRUG DRIVING AND HOONING) BILL 2026 (SERIAL 76)**

Mr Yan (Minister for Logistics and Infrastructure), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Traffic Act 1987* and the Traffic Regulations 1999 and for related purposes, and tabled an Explanatory Statement (Paper 792).

Mr Yan moved that the Bill be now read a first time and delivered an explanatory speech.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Yan moved that the Bill be referred to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee for report by 7 October 2026.

Question put and passed.

7. **MOTOR VEHICLES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (DIGITAL LICENCES) BILL 2026 (SERIAL 74)**

Mr Yan (Minister for Logistics and Infrastructure), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Motor Vehicles Act 1949* and the Motor Vehicles Regulations 1977, and tabled an Explanatory Statement (Paper 793).

Mr Yan moved that the Bill be now read a first time and delivered an explanatory speech.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

8. **MARINE FACILITIES (ACCESS AND PRICING) BILL 2026 (SERIAL 78)**

Mr Yan (Minister for Logistics and Infrastructure), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to regulate access to, and pricing of, services at certain marine facilities, and tabled an Explanatory Statement (Paper 794).

Mr Yan moved that the Bill be now read a first time and delivered an explanatory speech.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

9. ENVIRONMENT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (SAFE AIR) BILL 2026 (SERIAL 73)

Mr Burgoyne (Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Environment Protection Act 2019*, the *Trans-Territory Pipeline and Blacktip Gas Projects (Special Provisions) Act 2005*, the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998* and the Waste Management and Pollution Control (Administration) Regulations 1998, and tabled an Explanatory Statement (Paper 795).

Mr Burgoyne moved that the Bill be now read a first time and delivered an explanatory speech.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Burgoyne moved that the Bill be referred to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee for report by 7 October 2026.

Question put and passed.

10. LANDS AND PLANNING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (RED TAPE REDUCTION) BILL 2026 (SERIAL 77)

Mr Burgoyne (Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Building Act 1993*, the Building Regulations 1993, the *Place Names Act 1967*, the *Planning Act 1999* and the *Valuation of Land Act 1963* and to repeal the Valuation of Land Regulations 1981 and for related purposes, and tabled an Explanatory Statement (Paper 796).

Mr Burgoyne moved that the Bill be now read a first time and delivered an explanatory speech.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Burgoyne moved that the Bill be referred to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee for report by 7 October 2026.

Question put and passed.

11. ASSOCIATIONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2026 (SERIAL 72)

Ms Cahill (Minister for Trade, Business and Asian Relations), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Associations Act 2003*, the Associations Regulations 2004 and for related purposes, and tabled an Explanatory Statement (Paper 797).

Ms Cahill moved that the Bill be now read a first time and delivered an explanatory speech.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

Suspension of Meeting: The meeting of the Assembly was suspended between 12.04 pm and 2.00 pm.

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12. SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

The Speaker advised members that Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh NT would perform a Rakhi ceremony in the Main Hall for any members wishing to participate.

13. MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Edgington (Leader of Government Business) informed the Assembly of the absence of Mrs Finocchiaro and asked that all questions relating to the Chief Minister's portfolios be directed to Deputy Chief Minister.

14. QUESTIONS

2.01 Mr Young to Mr Maley
2.06 Mrs Zio to Mr Maley
2.09 Mr Brown to Mr Edgington
2.14 Dr Rahman to Mr Yan
2.18 Mr Smelt to Mr Edgington
2.22 Mr Patel to Ms Cahill
2.26 Mr Paech to Ms Boothby

Visitors: On behalf of all members, the Speaker welcomed students and teachers from The Essington School present in the gallery.

2.30 Mr Paech to Ms Boothby – Supplementary
2.32 Mr Mackay to Mr Burgoyne
2.36 Mr Smelt to Mr Yan
2.40 Mr O'Gallagher to Mr Yan
2.44 J Davis to Mr Maley
2.48 Mr Howe to Mrs Hersey
2.52 Mr Brown to Mr Maley
2.56 J Davis to Ms Cahill
2.57 Mrs Carlson to Mr Burgoyne

Mr Edgington (Leader of Government Business) asked that further questions be placed on the Written Question Paper.

Mr Maley gave a supplementary answer to a question asked on a previous day during Question Time from J Davis.

15. MOTION: INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF DATA CENTRES

Mr Smelt, pursuant to notice, moved:

That the Assembly:

Calls on the CLP Government to undertake an independent review into current and future data centre development in the Northern Territory, including its economic, social, environmental and strategic impacts, the use of Territory resources, and the long-term benefits to Territorians.

Ms Cahill, Mr Young, Mr Burgoyne, Mr Paech, Mr Maley, J Davis, Mr Smelt (in reply).

Question, that the motion be agreed to, put and the Assembly divided:

Ayes 5

Mr Brown	J Davis	Mr Paech	Mr Smelt
Mr Young			

Noes 16

Ms Boothby	Mr Burgoyne	Ms Cahill	Mrs Carlson
Mr Charls	Mr Edgington	Mrs Hersey	Mr Howe
Mr Kerle	Mr Mackay	Mr Maley	Mr O'Gallagher
Mr Patel	Dr Rahman	Mr Yan	Mrs Zio

Pairs: Mrs Finocchiaro and Ms Uibo.

Motion negatived.

16. MOTION: ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

Mr Paech, pursuant to notice, moved:

That the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly:

- Negotiate in good faith with employee representatives and finalise outstanding public sector enterprise agreements.
- Honour its commitment not to sack public servants.
- Amend its wages policy so that workers are not forced to trade entitlements for wage increases.

Mrs Hersey moved that the motion be amended by:

Omitting all words after 'That the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly' and inserting:

- Reaffirm the CLP Government's commitment to protecting public sector jobs and maintaining a strong Northern Territory Public Service.
- Acknowledge the CLP Government's delivery of fair, competitive and sustainable wage increases for Northern Territory public sector employees.
- Condemn the former Labor government for its mishandling of public sector bargaining, imposing a wage freeze and treating Territory public servants as the scapegoats for Labor's economic mismanagement.

Mr Brown, J Davis, Mr Young, Mr Paech (in reply).

Question, that the amendment be agreed to, put and passed.

Question, that the motion as amended be agreed to, put and passed.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mr Edgington (Leader of Government Business) moved that the Assembly do now adjourn.

Mr Charls, Mrs Carlson, J Davis, Mrs Zio, Ms Cahill, Mr Paech, Mr Burgoyne, Ms Boothby, Mrs Hersey, Mr Smelt, Mrs Lambley.

Question put and passed.

The Assembly adjourned at 8.13 pm until Thursday 27 August 2026 at 10.00 am.

DEEMED PAPERS

Pursuant to Standing Order 239 the following papers were deemed tabled:

***Professional Standards Act 1994* (NSW)**

The Australian Institute of Building Surveyors Professional Standards Scheme, *Professional Standards Act 1994* (NSW) (Paper 786)

The Surveyors Australia Professional Standards Scheme, *Professional Standards Act 1994* (NSW) (Paper 787)

Subordinate Legislation

Subordinate Legislation No.13 of 2026, Electrical Safety Amendment Regulations 2026 (Paper 788)

Subordinate Legislation No. 14 of 2026, Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Amendment Regulations 2026 (Paper 789)

Subordinate Legislation No. 21 of 2026, Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Further Amendment Regulations 2026 (Paper 790)

ATTENDANCE
All members attended the meeting, except Mrs Finocchiaro and Ms Uibo, on leave.



RUSSELL KEITH
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly